

## Wednesday, September 11, HOMEWORK DIRECTIONS:

1. Read my book review on *Wonder*, below.
  2. As you read, think about whether or not it meets the requirements of a good book review. Per our discussions in class, I've created a checklist, below.
  3. Then, answer the questions below. *You may type your answers below, print and write your answers, or write them on a separate piece of paper.*
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Ms. Kovar

6-1  
LA

September 7, 2013

### **SAMPLE Book Review** ***Wonder* by RJ Palacio, realistic fiction** **Reviewed by: Jennifer Kovar**

"It's okay, I'm know I'm weird looking, take a look, I don't bite." August Pullman is a typical 10-year-old boy, trying to make his way in the world except for one thing that sets him apart—his face. He was born with a facial deformity so extreme that people stare at him as soon as he walks out of his house. His medical issues have prevented him from going to school, until now. After years of homeschooling, he is starting school as a fifth grader and has to not only adapt to the usual new school adjustments--getting-to-know the teachers, making new friends, finding his way around the building—he also has to navigate through the difficulty of being judged by his face before people take the time to get to know the real him.

Through numerous points of points of view, including August himself, his sister Via, his supposed best-friend Jack, and Via's boyfriend Justin, we follow August through the ups and downs of life as a fifth grader with a different face.

This is one of those books that every single middle school student should read. In fact, every single adult out there needs to read this book. For starters it reminds us of the importance of basic human kindness, which is sometimes easy to forget when we get caught up in our day-to-day lives. Yet it is also a must read because you will get to know August, an amazing and misunderstood kid. And you will end up rooting for him as if he were your best friend. For example, when a mom, who happens to be on the school board, in the book writes an email to the principal to say that August should not be allowed to go to their school, I was so furious I wanted to punch her (and I'm not a violent person)! Really, the principal not allow her within 100 yards of the school. She exemplified the unkind people we all come across who leave us scratching our heads, unable to understand how they can be that cruel.

Another part of the book that really got my emotions going was when August explained why he liked Halloween so much. He likes Halloween more than any other holiday and it is because it's the **one day** of the entire year when he gets to be "normal." He puts on his costume with a mask and walks around just like any other kid. This made me cry.

I have to say, RJ Palacio must have experience with middle school-age kids because she does an incredible job of connecting to them. I loved it when she first referenced *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and had August comparing his experience to the Cheese Touch. Also, August is obsessed with *Star Wars* and I know that resonates with a lot of young adults....

This book kept me up waaaaay past my bedtime and I bet if you start getting to know August, you won't be able to put it down either.

# Book Review CHECKLIST

Needs Work	OK	Excellent	<i>The book review:</i>
			Includes the proper heading—name/period/date.
			Mentions the title, author, genre, and reviewer
			Title is capitalized and <i>italicized</i> .
			Summarizes the book.
			Includes at least THREE clear opinions/thoughts.
			Includes examples or quotes from book as proof.
			Includes persuasive language.
			Makes sense, is easy to understand.

## QUESTIONS

1. What did I do well in this book review? List 3 specific things, highlight them, and explain.

1.

2.

3.

2. What are some of the opinions I mention in my book review? Give examples.

3. What did I do to persuade you to read this book?